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THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD



THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD



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ROBIN HOOD

Ernest Aris

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THE CHILDREN'S
ROBIN HOOD

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THE OUTLAW

LONG ago a youth, with a bow slung over his shoulder, was strolling through Sherwood Forest near Nottingham. His brown hair hung down upon his shoulders. A gay feather was in his cap of green, and his close-fitting doublet was of green, too.

He seemed carefree. Indeed, he found it almost impossible to be sad in the greenwood, for he loved the glad life of the woods. His father had been head forester there, guarding the King's deer, for no one save the King could hunt in this Royal forest.

Yet the youth, Robert Fitzooth (for that was

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

his name) had good reason to be thoughtful if not wholly sad, for a certain Abbot had seized some of his lands, and when Robert tried to get them back again, the Abbot and his friend the



SHE SAID, "I AM IN GREAT TROUBLE"

Sheriff of Nottingham became Robert's bitter enemies.

They planned many ways of harming Robert's father. They said he was false to the King and had killed the King's deer, so could no longer be head forester. His home was burned and the Sheriff even tried to capture Robert as well.

Soon after this, Robert's father was killed, and the Sheriff offered a reward of two hundred pounds to anyone who should bring Robert, alive or dead, to Nottingham.

THE OUTLAW

And that is why Robert came to be strolling alone through the forest; his life was in great danger, but in the shelter of the greenwood he felt safe, for he knew all the best hiding places there.

He wandered on till he came to a poor woman's cottage on the border of the forest. He asked her for food, and she gladly shared a meal with him. Then she said, "I am in great trouble. We were nearly starving, so my three sons disobeyed the King's law, and killed deer in this forest. They and other brave outlaws are hiding in the greenwood yonder, but the Sheriff will surely capture and punish them."

"They are men after my own heart," said Robert eagerly, "I too will become an outlaw with them and defy the Sheriff."

Right glad were they to see Robert, and they said he should be their leader if he would first dare to go to Nottingham Fair and there gain the prize in the Sheriff's Shooting Match.

Happy to be off on an adventure, Robert dressed himself as a beggar, and with ragged clothes and a hood pulled well down over his forehead he set out.

At Nottingham he mingled with the crowd, and when the Sheriff's archers stood forth, Robert joined them. To his side stepped another

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

strange fellow with a bandage over one eye. Everyone wondered who these two rough-looking archers could be, and even jeered at them for daring to come, but when the shooting began, they were found to be more skilful than all the other archers. At last Robert shot an arrow into the very middle of the target, and everyone cried, "The beggar, the beggar has won the prize!"

Now the Sheriff had been watching with a strange feeling that this skilful beggar was the very Robert he wished to capture. He tried to trap him before he left Nottingham, but Robert slipped cleverly among the crowd and sped swiftly back to the forest.

There he was joined by the archer with the bandage over his eye. Pulling off this bandage, which was only a disguise, he cried, "Robin Hood shall be our leader, and I, Will Stutely, am proud to join the outlaw band."

Afterwards came Will Scarlet to the greenwood, and Much the Miller's Son, and many another brave outlaw. They learned all the secret paths of the forest, hunted the deer for food, and in a glade where the trees were thickest they used to feast in safety.

Great lords or nobles passing through the greenwood were forced by the outlaws to give

THE OUTLAW

up their riches, but poor unfortunate travellers were always helped by Robin and his merry men.

Whenever Robin was in danger he had only to blow three times upon his horn, and his men would run swiftly to his aid.



POOR UNFORTUNATE TRAVELLERS WERE ALWAYS HELPED

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

A FIGHT ON THE BRIDGE

DURING the summer life went very happily with Robin, and no great adventure came his way. One day, however, he set off towards Nottingham hoping for some excitement.

Soon he reached a brook across which there stretched the trunk of a tree, making a kind of narrow bridge. As Robin stepped on to it upon one end he saw a stranger, so tall as to seem almost a giant, swinging a huge oak staff and about to cross from the other side.

They met in the middle, and neither of them would go back.

"Give way, fellow!" said the stranger.

"No, indeed," replied Robin, "I give way to no man."

"Nor I!" said the giant, "unless he be a better one in a fight."

"Stay!" cried Robin, "I will get a staff like your own, and we will see who is the better man."

So saying, he sprang back to his own bank, laid aside his bow and arrows, cut a good oak staff, and returned to his place on the bridge.

Then a fierce struggle followed. Many a time Robin swung his staff and gave the giant a

Blow
2-2

A FIGHT ON THE BRIDGE

crack on his ribs, and many a crack Robin had in return. Often it seemed as if both must fall into the stream below. One terrible blow struck the giant's side. He swayed, but was just able



"GIVE WAY, FELLOW!" SAID THE STRANGER

to steady himself again and bring his staff with crashing force on Robin's head. The next moment Robin tumbled into the water beneath.

"Where are you now, my fine fellow?" cried the giant, laughing.

"In the stream, in truth," said Robin, almost

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

too dazed by that last blow to know where he was. He dragged himself on to the bank, seized his horn, and blew three loud notes upon it.



A FIERCE STRUGGLE FOLLOWED

Out from different parts of the forest ran many of his merry band, and seeing their leader in such a plight, they were about to lay hold upon the stranger, but Robin said, "No! good fellows, it was a fair fight, and this stranger is the

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP

stronger man." Then offering his hand in friendship, Robin said, "These are my outlaws who live in the greenwood with me, for I am Robin Hood. Will you too join our company?"

"Right gladly will I," was the reply, "for I was on my way to find you, and wish now I had not fought with you."

"Have no sorrow about that, good friend," said Robin. "We welcome a brave fighter. Come tell us your name."

"I am John Little, of Mansfield," said he.

"Ha!" laughed Robin, "we must christen you again, for a giant such as you must be called LITTLE John. Welcome to our band."

So back to the glade they went and held a feast in honour of Little John, who became the most daring and faithful of Robin's men.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP

ONE sunny day Robin was wandering alone far from any of his merry men when suddenly, almost before he knew it, he came upon the proud Bishop of Hereford and many of the Sheriff's men, who had journeyed to the greenwood determined to capture the bold Robin Hood.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Now Robin, seeing so many against him and knowing the Bishop would show him no mercy, turned quickly and sped through the forest. After him went the Bishop and it looked as if Robin would surely be taken.

About a mile through the wood was a widow's cottage. To this Robin dashed and asked for help, saying, "It is Robin Hood, and the Bishop is pursuing me."

"Right gladly will I aid you," she answered, "for you have been kind to the poor, you have given me clothes to wear, and you have helped my three sons too. Come, change your suit for my old garments and while I stay here in your doublet of green, you shall leave the cottage dressed as an old woman. The Bishop will never guess who you really are."

Robin was delighted with the idea and said,

"Then give me soon thy coat of grey,
And take thou my mantle of green,
Thy spindle and twine unto me resign,
And take thou my arrows so keen."

In great haste the change was made, and out hobbled Robin in the old woman's garments, leaning on a stick. When he had reached the cover of the trees, however, he hobbled no longer, but dashed off to the glade to his merry men.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP

Little John, seeing this strange old lady in the distance and mistaking her for a witch, said, "I will shoot an arrow at her for she looks just like a witch."



OUT HOBbled ROBIN IN THE OLD WOMAN'S GARMENTS

"Hold thy hand, hold thy hand," said Robin Hood then,

"And shoot not thy arrows so keen,
I am Robin Hood, thy master good,
As quickly shall be seen."

Hastily gathering his men together they hurried back through the forest to trap the proud Bishop.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

While this had been happening the Bishop had reached the cottage, and thinking the person in the green suit there was indeed Robin,



AND FOR JOY HE HAD GOT ROBIN HOOD,
HE WENT LAUGHING ALL THE WAY.

called out, "Now, I will have that traitor Robin Hood."

Then the old woman he sat on a milk white steed,
Himself on a dapple grey,
And for joy he had got Robin Hood,
He went laughing all the way.

But as they were riding the forest along,
The Bishop he chanced to see
A hundred brave bowman, stout and bold,
Stand under the greenwood tree.

ROBIN HOOD AND THE BISHOP

In great astonishment he cried, "Pray, who is over yonder?"

"Marry," said the old woman, "I think it is



VERY HUMBLD AND VERY ANGRY

one men call Robin Hood, with his merry archers."

"But who are you then?" said the Bishop.

"Why, in truth, I am only an old woman, though you thought me Robin Hood," was the reply.

Then, understanding the trick which had been played upon him, the Bishop turned and would have fled as did all the Sheriff's men, but Robin,

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THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

who by this time was within reach, seized the Bishop's horse and tied it to a tree.

Taking off his mantle, he spread it upon the ground, and turned out on it all the Bishop's money, which was about five hundred pounds. Last of all the outlaws bound the Bishop on his horse, with his face towards the tail of the animal, and sent him homeward thus, very humbled and very angry.

A MERRY FRIAR

IN summer when green leaves and fresh flowers made everything look gay, Robin and his outlaws spent many hours at archery or games or wrestling. Will Scarlet, Robin's cousin, and others were proud of their shooting, but Little John was most skilful of all.

One day after he had killed a deer full five hundred feet away, Robin cried, "A blessing on you, Little John! I would ride a hundred miles to find one who could match that."

"Ah!" laughed Will Scarlet, "there lives a merry friar in Fountains Abbey yonder, whom neither you nor Little John can match."

"Then I will neither eat nor drink till I have found him," said Robin, and putting on his cap

A MERRY FRIAR

of steel and his broadsword, he started off to Fountains Dale, carrying his bow in his hand. His way led him by a narrow stream.

Now the jovial Friar, too, had put on a cap of steel and his broadsword, and covering all



ROBIN STUMBLED ACROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE

with his cloak, was wandering upon the other side of the self-same stream.

“Ho!” cried Robin, not knowing who he was, “pray carry me over this stream, or I will not answer for your life.” The friar looked steadily at Robin, then waded across, took Robin upon his back, and speaking neither good word nor bad, landed him safely on the other bank.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"And now my fine fellow," said the friar, "pray carry me back over the stream, or I will not answer for your life." Very grudgingly Robin took the heavy friar on his back, and



"THERE, MY FINE FELLOW!"

speaking neither good word nor bad, he stumbled across to the other side. Then springing forward he said, "And now you must even carry me over again, or I will not answer for your safety."

Without a murmur the friar took Robin on his back, and speaking neither good word nor bad, began to wade across. But in midstream,

A MERRY FRIAR

with a sudden jerk, he pitched Robin into the water below, saying, "There, my fine fellow, choose now, sink or swim."

Splashing and spluttering, Robin scrambled on to the bank and began shooting at the friar. But all the arrows glanced harmlessly off the friar's shield. Next Robin drew his sword and the two men fought, till Robin was forced down on the ground; then he cried, "A boon, a boon! Give me leave to blow three times upon my horn."

"'Tis granted," said the friar.

As the three mighty notes died away through the greenwood, half a hundred yeomen in Lincoln green came hurrying towards Robin.

"Whose men are these?" asked the friar.

"They are mine," replied Robin proudly.

"Then a boon, a boon I also beg!" said the friar, "Give me leave to whistle three times through my fingers."

"'Tis granted," answered Robin.

As the three shrill whistles died away in the greenwood, half a hundred dogs came rushing wildly forward.

"Here's a dog for each of your men," said the friar.

Then began a strange battle between the archers and the dogs. So cleverly had the dogs

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

been trained that they caught the arrows in their mouths like playthings.

Then of a sudden Robin cried, "Stay, call off your dogs, for surely you must be Friar Tuck of



"I LIKE YOU WELL, AND WOULD FAIN SHARE LIFE
WITH YOU IN THE GREENWOOD"

Fountains Abbey, the very man I set out to find. You are a brave fighter and I would fain be your friend."

"Surely you must be bold Robin Hood of Sherwood," answered the Friar, "I like you well, and would fain share life with you in the greenwood."

So the jovial friar became an outlaw. Many

ALLAN-A-DALE

a kind prayer did he say for them, many a merry song did he sing for them, many a fat deer did he kill for them, and many a good feast did he cook for them.

ALLAN-A-DALE

Hey down, and a down, and a down !
I've a lassie back in the town ;
Come day, come night,
Come dark or light,
She will wed me, back in the town !

THIS was the merry song Robin heard someone singing in the greenwood one bright morning. Hiding himself from view, he waited for the singer to appear.

The youngster was clothed in scarlet red,
In scarlet fine and gay,
And he did frisk it over the plain,
And chanted his round-de-lay.

“So light-hearted a song I will not disturb,” said Robin, and he let the youth pass on his way. Now it happened that

As Little John next morning stood
Among the leaves so gay,
There he did spy the same young man
Come drooping along the way.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

The scarlet he wore the day before
It was clean cut away,
And at every step he fetched a sigh,
Alack, and a well-a-day.



AT EVERY STEP HE FETCHED A SIGH

Little John stopped him and brought him through the forest to Robin, who, wondering why the singer's happy mood had so quickly changed, said,

"Hast thou any money to spare
For my merry men and me?"

"I have no money," the young man said,

"But five shillings and a ring,
That I have kept these seven long years,
To have at my wedding."

ALLAN-A-DALE

"Then why are you sorrowful?" asked Robin.

"Listen to my story," said the youth sadly.

"My name is Allan-a-Dale. For seven whole years I have waited for the maiden I loved, and



HIMSELF HE DISGUISED AS A HARPER

this very morning we were to have been married. But, alas, her father has ordered her to marry an old knight, because he is richer than I."

"And where is the wedding to take place?" said Robin eagerly.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"In a little church about five miles yonder," replied Allan.

"Then do not lose heart," said Robin, "for we will help you." Calling his men together, he bade them hasten to the church and hide in the woods near by, till they should hear the three well-known notes on his horn.

Himself he disguised as a harper, and he hurried through the forest to the church. No one was there except the Bishop, who was waiting for the guests to arrive.

"And who are you?" said he to Robin.

"Only a strolling harper," he replied. "I thought I might be allowed to play merry tunes for the wedding to-day."

"You are welcome," said the Bishop, and Robin stood aside to wait till the bride and bridegroom should appear.

And soon came in a wealthy knight,
Which was both grave and old,
And after him a pretty lass
Did shine like glittering gold.

As they were about to enter the church, Robin cried out, "Stay! it must not be; this old knight is no fit husband for so young a bride."

"Hold thy peace!" cried the Bishop angrily.

ALLAN-A-DALE

“Nay, I will not,” cried Robin. “The bride shall choose a bridegroom for herself.”

Then Robin Hood put his horn to his mouth,
He blew out blasts two and three,
And four and twenty good bowmen bold
Came leaping o’er the lea.



AND SO THEY RETURNED TO THE MERRY GREENWOOD

And when they came into the churchyard,
Marching all in a row,
The first man was Allan-a-Dale,
To give bold Robin his bow.

“Now choose, fair maid,” said Robin.

At once the bride stepped over to Allan-a-Dale, and neither the angry Bishop nor the

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

wealthy old knight, nor any other person could make her leave his side.

Together they went up to the altar, and Little John and the jovial Friar and the merry Robin all helped at the marriage service.

And thus having end of this merry wedding,
The bride looked like a queen,
And so they returned to the merry greenwood,
Among the leaves so green.

And that is how Allan-a-Dale and his bride came to share the outlaws' life in Sherwood.

ROBIN DINES WITH THE SHERIFF

ON a gay morning, Robin, in happy mood, chanced upon a jolly fellow with a fine mare going through the forest. "Good-morning," said Robin, "where do you live, and what is your trade?"

"Never mind where I dwell," replied the man; "I am a butcher on my way to Nottingham to sell my meat."

"Pray sell it to me, and your horse as well," said Robin, "for I would like to turn butcher for a day."

ROBIN DINES WITH THE SHERIFF

The man gazed in astonishment, but as Robin was willing to pay a good price the bargain was soon made. Putting on the butcher's clothes, Robin set off for Nottingham, while the butcher,



PUTTING ON THE BUTCHER'S CLOTHES, ROBIN SET OFF
FOR NOTTINGHAM

pleased with the outlaw's gay suit of Lincoln green, turned homeward again.

At Nottingham Robin took up his place in the market-square, but, not knowing how much to charge for meat, he sold more for one penny than other butchers sold for five. The people,

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

finding his wares so cheap, bought from him quickly, and soon his meat was all gone.

The other traders, thinking he would spend his money as easily as he received it, asked him to join them at dinner, and they all went off to the Sheriff's house, where Robin was seated next to the Sheriff himself.

Then in merry mood Robin called for wines and bade them all drink what they liked best, for he would pay the bill. They thought him a mad fellow, yet they enjoyed his jolly company.

The Sheriff at last said to him, "Good fellow, have you any horned cattle that you could sell to me?" (For he thought to buy something very cheaply from this foolish butcher, little dreaming who he really was!)

Now Robin, enjoying the turn affairs had taken, said,

"Yes, that I have, good Master Sheriff,
I have hundreds two or three,
And an hundred acres of good free land
If you please it for to see."

So the Sheriff saddled a good horse, and taking three hundred pounds in gold went off with the foolish butcher. As they reached the borders of Sherwood, the Sheriff said, "I pray we may not meet that outlaw, Robin Hood."

ROBIN DINES WITH THE SHERIFF

"Never fear that," said Robin.

A little farther on they came suddenly within sight of a herd of deer. "See here," cried Robin, "these are my horned cattle," and putting



MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO CAPTURE
ROBIN HOOD SOMEHOW

his horn to his lips, he blew three times upon it.

As quickly as it takes to tell, the deer scattered, and from the greenwood there came Little John and other merry outlaws, clad in Lincoln green.

Then the Sheriff understood that the foolish

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

butcher was none other than Robin Hood himself.

"See," said Robin to Little John, "I have brought the Sheriff to dine with me."

"He is very welcome," replied Little John, laughing, "And I hope he will pay well for his feast."

So saying, he took the Sheriff's mantle, laid it upon the ground, and poured into it the three hundred pounds of gold.

Thus the Sheriff's money paid for the feast, and he went home more determined than ever to capture Robin Hood somehow, while the merry outlaws returned to the greenwood laughing heartily over the adventures of the day.

THE BEGGAR'S BAG OF MEAL

ONE day Robin Hood met a strange-looking beggar in the forest. He had a strong pikestaff in his hand and wore three hats, fastened together on his head, while his cloak, though old and patched, had many folds of cloth and kept him warm and dry in all weathers. Fastened about his neck by a leather strap was a bag of meal.

THE BEGGAR'S BAG OF MEAL

"Stay, stay!" cried Robin, "I wish to speak with you"—but the beggar passed on as if he had not heard.

"Indeed, you shall stop," cried Robin, standing across the pathway.

"By my faith, I cannot," replied the beggar, "I have to go far, it is getting late, and I want my supper."

"You are very selfish," said Robin, "I too would like supper, therefore lend me money that I may buy some at the nearest inn."

"You will get no money from me," answered the beggar.

"Then," said Robin, "I will see if a shot from my arrow will make you obey."

But the beggar only smiled and said, "I have no fear of your arrows. I defy you!"

A fierce struggle followed, but for every blow that Robin gave, the beggar gave buffets three, and at last Robin fell down in a swoon, while the beggar set off towards the town.



A STRANGE-LOOKING
BEGGAR

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Now it happened that three of Robin's men were passing near, and seeing Robin lying as one dead, they were alarmed. Gradually he began to recover.



ROBIN LYING AS ONE DEAD

"How came you thus, good master?" they cried.

Robin answered:

"A beggar with a clouted cloak,
In whom I feared no ill,
Hath with his pikestaff clawed my back,
I fear 'twill ne'er be well.

See, there he goes over yonder hill. Follow him quickly and bring him back. Whatever happens, do not let him go on, for he will boast of my defeat at the inn, and all Nottingham will hear of it."

THE BEGGAR'S BAG OF MEAL

Now the beggar had a start of about two miles, but the outlaws took a short cut through the forest, came upon him unawares, took away his staff, and would have killed him, but he begged for mercy.

"You must return with us to our master," said they.

"Oh, stay, I beg you," he cried. "If you will set me free and do me no danger, I will give you a hundred pounds and much more silver, too, which I have hidden in the bottom of my bag of meal."

To this they agreed, thinking that after they had the money they could still prevent his escape. He took off his cloak and spread it on the ground, then he opened the bag of meal, and thrusting his two hands into it, he pretended to search for the money.

The two outlaws bent over watching anxiously for the money to appear, when suddenly the beggar took out two handfuls of meal and scattered it in their eyes so that they were nearly blinded. Quickly, seizing his staff, he gave them many and many a blow with it till their sides and shoulders were sore and bruised.

Then, laughing at their pain, he made off through the forest, while the outlaws were glad to return safely to the greenwood. When Robin

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

heard their tale, though sharing in their shame at being so sadly beaten, he could not but laugh heartily to think of the trick the beggar had played them.

THE RESCUE OF WILL STUTELY

IT happened that several of the outlaws had been to buy food at the market when they were attacked by the Sheriff's men, and in the struggle, Will Stutely had been captured and thrown into prison.

When Robin Hood heard of it he gathered his men together, and dressing himself in scarlet and his outlaws in green, each man carrying a good broadsword and a strong yew bow, they all flung rough cloaks over their tunics and started off.

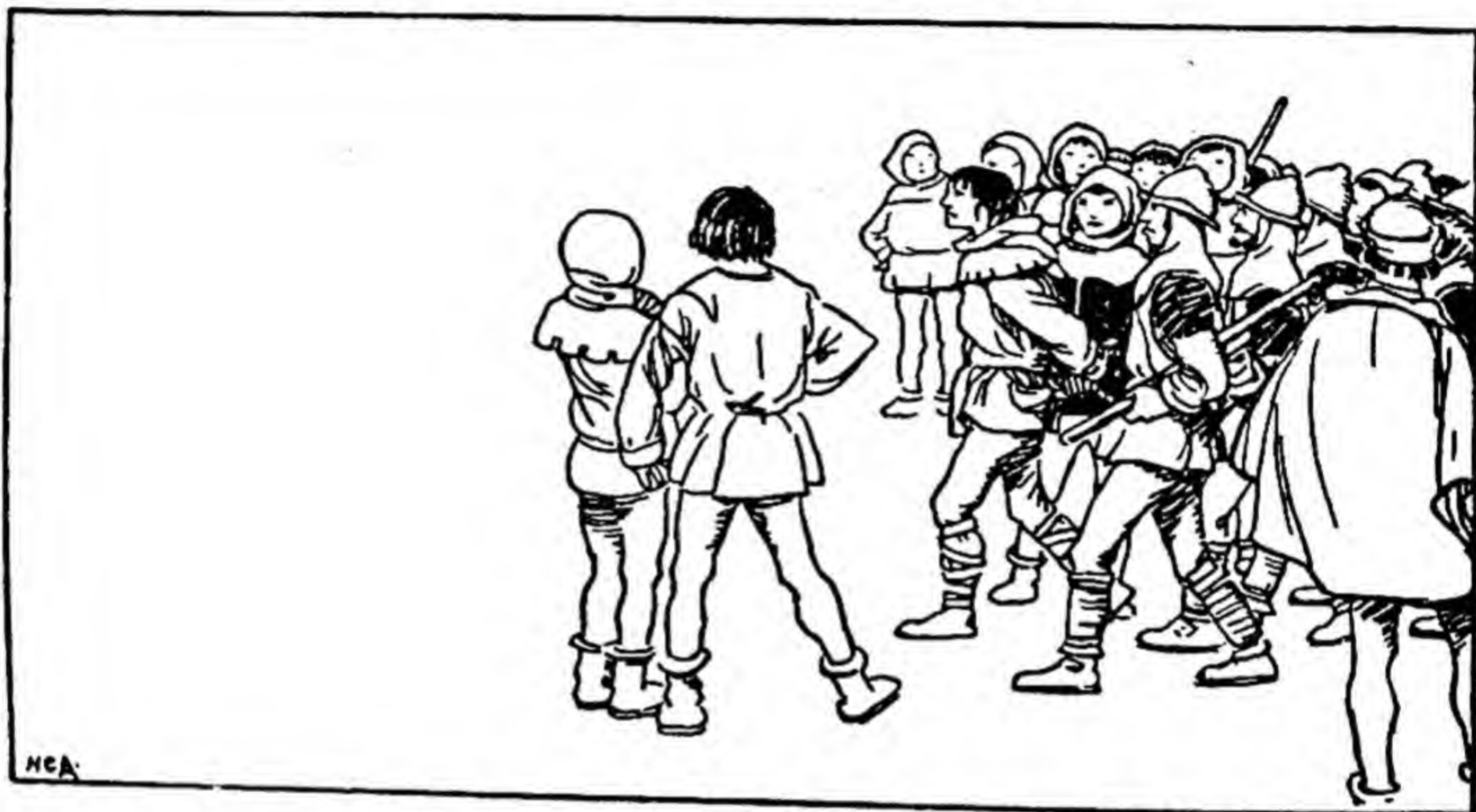
When they came within sight of the castle where Will Stutely was imprisoned, they lay in ambush, while one of them went to ask an old palmer, who was standing by the drawbridge, what news there was.

"Alack, alas," the palmer said,
"And for ever woe is me,
Will Stutely hanged will be this day
On yonder gallows tree."

THE RESCUE OF WILL STUTELY

If only his master, Robin Hood, had known, he would have sent some of his brave yeomen to rescue him."

"Indeed, he would," replied the outlaw, then he returned to tell Robin the news.



. . . WILL STUTELY CAME
GUARDED ON EVERY SIDE.

No sooner he was from the palmer gone,
But the gates were opened wide,
And out of the castle Will Stutely came,
Guarded on every side.

Seeing no one among the crowd to help him,
Will begged the Sheriff that he might not be
hanged but allowed to die fighting bravely.

"Give me a sword all in my hand,
And let me be unbound,
And with thee and thy men will I fight,
Till I lie dead on the ground."

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"No, indeed," cried the Sheriff, "upon the gallows you shall die, and I hope one day to hang your master, too."

"That you will never do," said Will, "my



THE SHERIFF WAS THROWN INTO A MUDDY STREAM

noble master scorns you—you will never capture him."

By this time they had reached the gallows. Suddenly there was a stir in the crowd, and an outlaw leaped out from the trees, cut the bonds which bound Will Stutely, and thrusting a sword into his hand, bade him use it quickly and well.

In a moment arrows were flying in all directions from the bows of Robin Hood and his merry men. There was a lively struggle, and some say that the Sheriff was thrown into a muddy stream and had to crawl home dirty

ROBIN TURNS POTTER

and shivering, while many of his men were wounded.

Thus was Will Stutely rescued, and all went back in triumph to the greenwood.



"YOU WILL GET NO TOLL FROM ME"

ROBIN TURNS POTTER

ROBIN HOOD and Little John were resting under the trees one day when they saw a proud potter with horse and cart jogging along on his way to market.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"I will call him to pay toll for going through my greenwood," cried Robin.

"Be careful," said Little John, "he is a great fighter, as I know of old, and he will not part with a single penny."

"Indeed he shall," said Robin, jumping up and running forward to stop the horse.

"What is your will with me?" demanded the potter.

"My name is Robin Hood," said Robin. "I collect toll of passers-by; give me now what I ask!"

"You will get no toll from me. I settle all such matters with my stiff oak stick," said the potter, leaping down from his cart to fight.

Robin drew his sword, and a great struggle followed, till Robin fell to the ground. "Hold!" he cried, "you have paid toll. I am satisfied."

"'Tis well you are," replied the potter, "and I trust you may learn better manners in future."

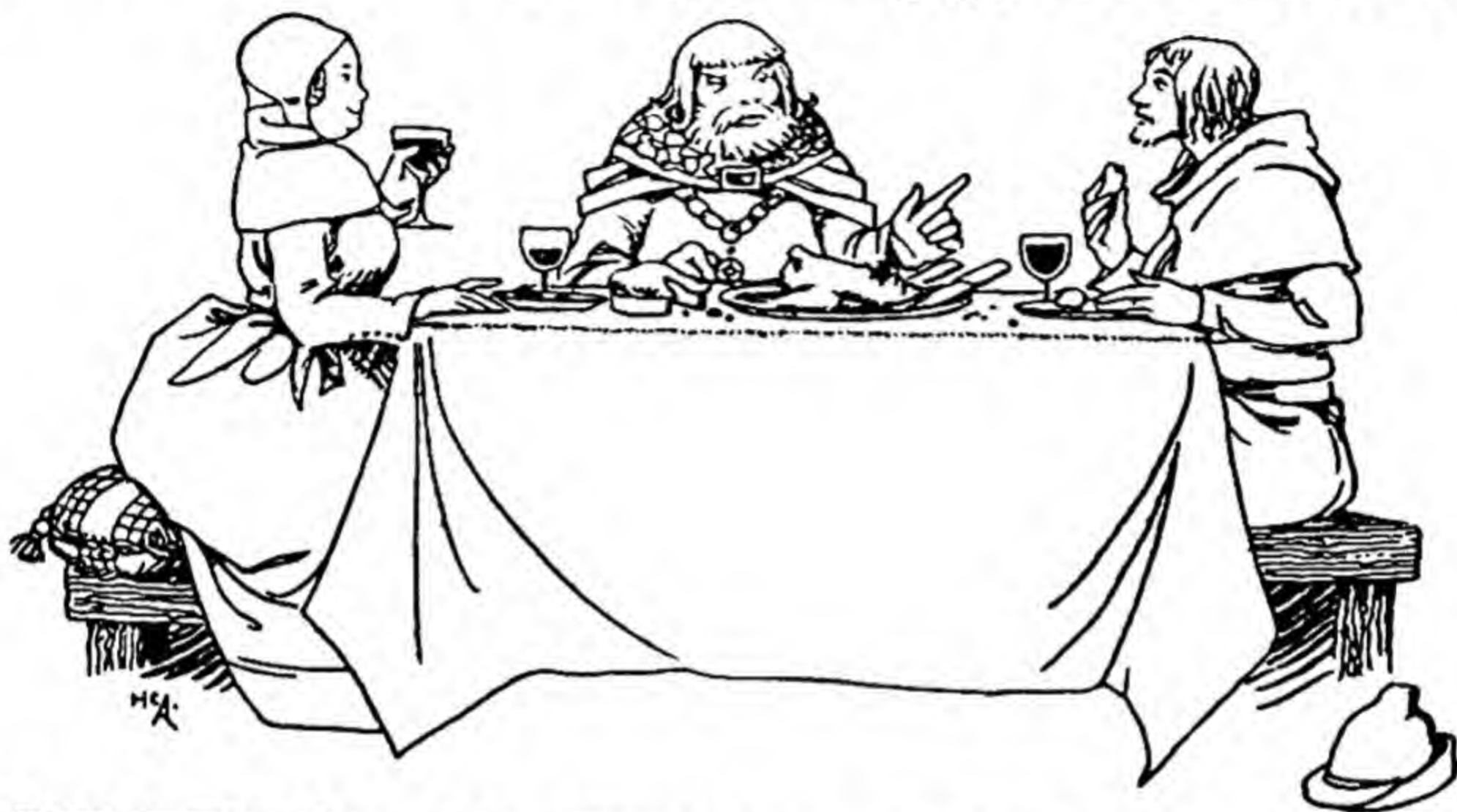
"Well," said Robin, "let us be friends, and I pray you sell your wares to me that I may turn potter and ride to Nottingham for a merry time."

"You are a jovial fellow," said the potter, "and a bold one, too. You shall have your wish, but be careful that the Sheriff does not capture you."

ROBIN TURNS POTTER

"Never fear," replied Robin, and when he had dressed himself in the potter's clothes, he rode off in high glee.

At the market the people flocked to his stall, for he sold everything cheaply, and when he



THE SHERIFF'S LADY INVITED HIM TO DINE AT HER HOUSE

sent the Sheriff's lady five fine jars as a present, she invited him to dine at her house.

No one guessed who the strange potter was, and at dinner the Sheriff asked him to go with them to a grand shooting match that was to be held in the afternoon.

Robin agreed, but as he watched the archers he longed to show his own skill, and said, "I wish I had a bow and arrows."

"You shall have one," replied the Sheriff, "and one of the best."

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

A splendid bow was brought, and though the strange potter won the prize, he knew he could shoot even better with his own, so he said, "In my cart I have a better bow than this. I had it from Robin Hood."



THE SHERIFF HAD TO RETURN ON FOOT TO NOTTINGHAM

"Indeed!" said the Sheriff, "do you know him? I would give a hundred pounds to capture him."

"Well," replied Robin, "if you wish I will bring you to him in the morning."

The Sheriff was delighted, and next day they started off. Soon they reached the forest, and the potter said, "Robin Hood should be near this place," and drawing out his horn quickly, he blew three notes upon it.

From far and near outlaws sped through the

THE BISHOP PAYS FOR HIS DINNER

greenwood, and the Sheriff understood at once who the potter really was.

"Here is the Sheriff of Nottingham," cried Robin, laughing.

"You are welcome," said Little John.

"And now," said Robin to the Sheriff, "I have brought you to Robin Hood, and you must pay the hundred pounds you promised, and give up your good horse as well; however, I will send a white pony as a present to your wife, for she has a kinder heart than you."

Thus was the Sheriff humbled by the strange potter, and had to return on foot to Nottingham.

THE BISHOP PAYS FOR HIS DINNER

NOW Robin, hearing that the Bishop of Hereford was going to ride through the greenwood, planned to play a merry trick upon him.

"Come kill me a venison," said bold Robin Hood,

"Come kill me a good fat deer.

The Bishop of Hereford is to dine with me to-day,
And he shall pay well for his cheer."

The outlaws scattered to different parts of Sherwood to watch each roadway, while Robin and six others dressed themselves in old tattered cloaks as shepherds, and began to cook venison over a fire near the highway.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Presently the Bishop, with ten followers, came along, but the outlaws pretended they had not seen him.

"Who are you, and why do you make so free with the King's deer?" asked the Bishop.

"We are shepherds," said Robin; "we keep sheep all the year round and to-day we wish to make merry."

"Indeed!" replied the Bishop, "then the King shall know of your doings. Come at once to the Sheriff of Nottingham!"

"Pardon! O pardon!" cried Robin, kneeling down, and pretending to be alarmed.

"No, in truth," said the Bishop sternly, "lead on with me."

But Robin sprang back quickly, and from underneath his shepherd's cloak he pulled his well-known horn. In answer to his three blasts upon it, three score and ten men came running towards them. All bowed to Robin, who said, "Oh, here is the Bishop of Hereford, and no pardon will he give."

"Then cut off his head, good master," said Little John.

It was now the Bishop's turn to call for mercy. "Pardon, O pardon!" he cried. "If I had known it had been you, I'd have gone some other way."

"No pardon," answered Robin, "though I

THE BISHOP PAYS FOR HIS DINNER

will show you some mercy. Come, hasten, for you must dine with me to-day in the green-wood." And he led the way through the forest to the glade where a grand dinner was prepared for the unhappy Bishop. He was made to say



"PARDON! O PARDON!" CRIED ROBIN

grace, and the feast began, and a right merry one it was for all except the Bishop.

"And now," said Robin to him, "you must pay for this good cheer."

In vain the Bishop said he was poor, for Little John took his cloak, spread it upon the ground, and from the Bishop's treasure-bags poured out three hundred pounds, saying, "Here's money enough, good master!"

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"Yes, truly," replied Robin, "but we must have music and a dance before we part company," and taking the unwilling Bishop by the hand, he made him skip and dance to a right merry tune till he was wearied out. Then the Bishop was allowed to go home once more, and indeed he was thankful to have escaped so lightly from Robin Hood's band.



HE MADE HIM SKIP AND DANCE

THE WIDOW'S THREE SONS

THE WIDOW'S THREE SONS

IN the merry month of May, Robin set off towards Nottingham, and he met an old woman weeping by the wayside.

"What grieves you?" he asked.

"A great sorrow," she replied. "To-day my three sons are to be hanged."

"Hanged!" said Robin, "and what for? For setting fire to villages or any such wrong?"

"No, indeed," she replied, "their only wrong is that they have killed the King's deer."

"Well!" said Robin, "you have given me food at your cottage, now I will help you. The time is fortunate, too, for I am just on my way to Nottingham. Go back to your cottage, and have no fear."

He hurried on and soon overtook an old palmer, and asked of him the news. "Sad news, indeed," the palmer replied, "three men are to be hanged to-day."

"That were a pity," said Robin. Then, suddenly thinking of a way to rescue them, he added, "If you will change clothes with me I will give you forty shillings in silver."

"Forty shillings!" said the old man. "Why, your suit is of good cloth, while mine is old and

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

ragged. Folks will laugh at you wherever you go."

"No matter," replied Robin, "see, here is the money. Change quickly, for I have little time to spare."



A SORRY SIGHT ROBIN LOOKED AS HE HOBbled ON
TO NOTTINGHAM

Then he took the old man's hat which stood full high in the crown; he put on the cloak which was patched black, blue, and red; patched too were his breeches, his shoes, and his hose, and a sorry sight Robin looked as he hobbled on to Nottingham.

THE WIDOW S THREE SONS

There he met the Sheriff and said, "I pray you, good Sheriff, what will you give to a poor old man to be your hangman to-day?"

"Some suits, some suits, and pence thirteen,
To-day is the hangman's fee."

Then with a jump, which showed the Sheriff he was not an old man, Robin sprang aside saying:

"I've a bag for meal and a bag for malt,
And a bag for barley and corn,
A bag for bread, and a bag for beef,
And a bag for my little small horn."

And hastily putting his horn to his lips he blew three blasts that sounded far outside the town.

The first loud blast that he did blow,
He blew both loud and shrill.
One hundred and fifty of Robin's men
Came riding over the hill.

Of course the widow's sons were soon rescued. All too quickly the Sheriff saw his mistake, and though he offered a great reward to anyone who should capture Robin, it was in vain, for all the outlaws escaped to the forest and made merry over the trick Robin had played on the Sheriff.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

KING HENRY'S TOURNEY

NOW it chanced that a great trial of archery was to be held in Finsbury Fields, and about two hundred of the King's best bowmen were to shoot. Queen Catherine, however, was rather tired of hearing King Henry sing the praises of his archers, and learning that Robin Hood and his outlaws were more skilful than any in the land, she decided in a friendly way to overcome the King's men.

So she sent Page Partington to Sherwood to bid Robin and four of his best archers come to court.

She bids you come to fair London's court,
Not fearing anything,
For there shall be a little sport,
And she hath sent you her ring.

Then Robin took his mantle from his back,
It was of Lincoln green,
And sent it by the lovely page,
For a present unto the Queen.

The outlaws were soon busy preparing for the journey. Robin dressed himself in scarlet red, and his men were in Lincoln green. Each wore a black hat ornamented with white feathers.

KING HENRY'S TOURNEY

And when he came to London's court,
He fell down on his knee.

"Thou art welcome, Locksley," said the Queen,
"And all thy good yeomanry."

The Queen liked their courteous ways, and after a good feast she gave them her colours to wear, bidding them to be ready the next day, but to tell no man who they were.

It was to be a great contest; there were prizes of gold and silver and good rich wines; and everyone waited eagerly for it to begin. First the King's archers stood forth to shoot. The people cheered as the arrows sped through the air, many hitting the very centre of the target. At last the five best archers stood forward to take their prizes.

"Never were there such fine bowmen as those," said the King. "Five hundred pounds will I give if anyone can bring forward a better one."

"Then stay!" said the Queen, "I have five good yeomen to bring," and she sent Page Partington to call Robin and his men. "These are my champions," she added, "now let the shooting begin once more."

The ten archers stood forward. At first Robin and his outlaws purposely missed the target, and the score was almost equal.

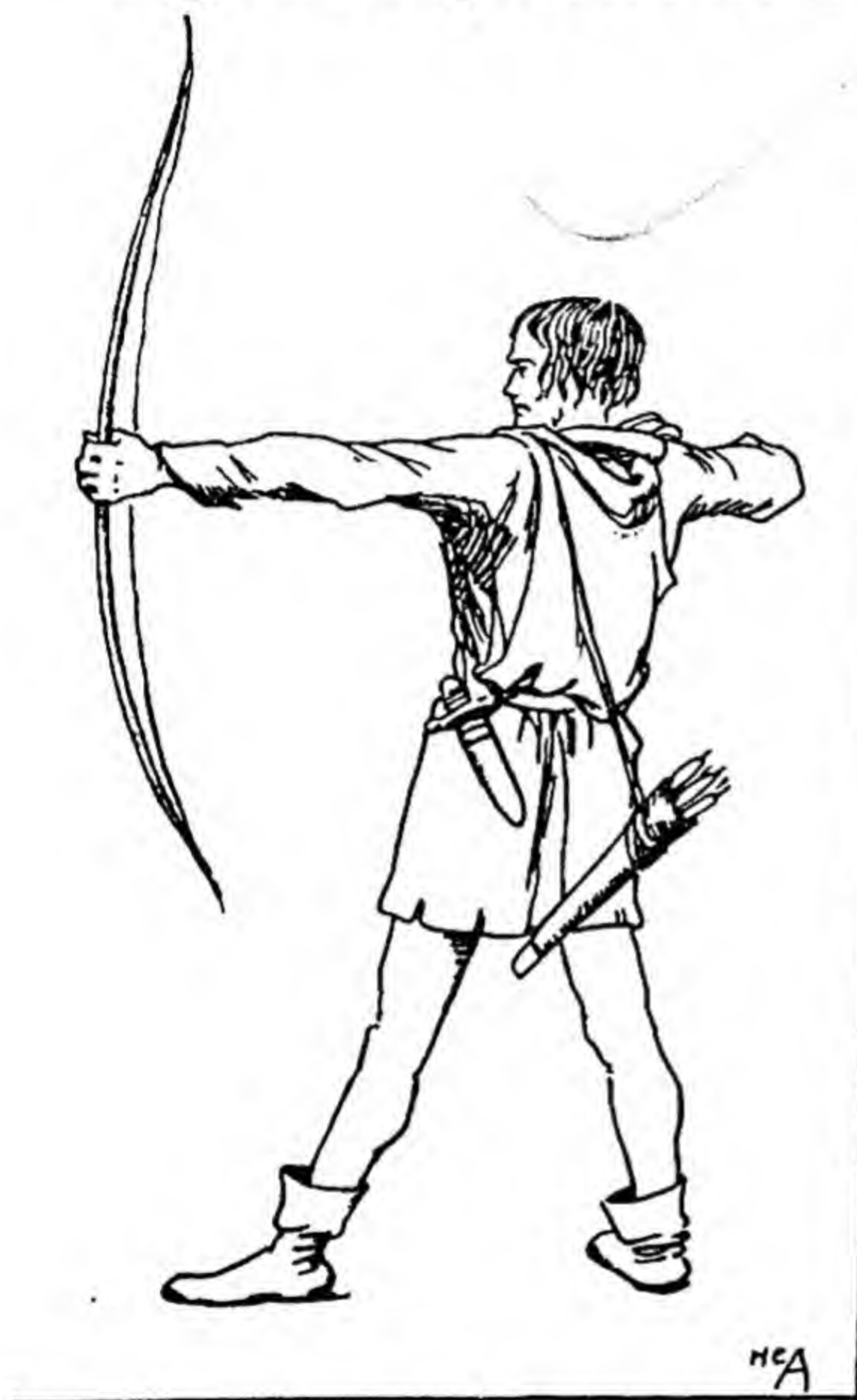
THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"Ah," said the King, "what say you now, my Queen?"

"Wait till the shooting is over," she answered. Again they took aim, and again the contest

seemed even. Then Robin asked that he might place a special target for the last trial. He took a thin willow wand and set it up in the ground. "Split that if you can," cried Robin.

Even the best of the King's archers failed, but Robin's arrow whizzed through the air and split the thin wand in two. A great shout went up from all around, and the



SPLIT THE THIN WAND IN TWO

King had to admit that his men were beaten.

So the tourney ended. "Now," said the Queen, "I beg a boon. I pray that my champion Robin Hood and his outlaws may be pardoned."

"I cannot refuse," said the King, "for never

SIR GUY OF GISBORNE

have I seen such archery." Turning to them he added, "For forty days you may stay safely in London, but after that you must leave the court."

So for forty days they made merry in London; then with their store of gold and special gifts from the Queen, they set off for the greenwood again.

SIR GUY OF GISBORNE

NOW it happened that Robin made so many of the nobles who passed through Sherwood give up their riches, that they complained to the Sheriff, who, not knowing how to capture the outlaw himself, offered a much greater reward than before to anyone who should be able to do so.

Sir Guy of Gisborne, anxious for an adventure, agreed to go, and to blow upon a silver bugle when he had taken Robin, so that the Sheriff and his men, who were to remain near at hand, might then hurry up and hang Robin on the nearest tree.

Dressing himself in horse's skin, complete with head and tail and mane, he set out. As he walked the tail made him look like some three-legged monster.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Now about this time, Little John went off alone through the forest, and found Will Scarlet having a struggle with many of the Sheriff's



LITTLE JOHN WAS TAKEN PRISONER AND BOUND TO A TREE
men. He did not take long to join in the fight, and though Will Scarlet managed to escape, Little John, whose bow broke as he took his last aim, was taken prisoner and bound to a tree.

SIR GUY OF GISBORNE

“Stay there,” cried the Sheriff, who was waiting for Sir Guy’s signal, “till we have caught your master, Robin Hood, then both of you will be hanged upon the highest tree in the forest.”

All this time, however, much had been happening to Robin. When he saw the strange creature dressed in horse’s hide he stopped him, saying, “Good morrow, fellow, I think by the bow you carry you ought to be a good archer.”

“’Tis not of archery I think,” was the reply, “I have lost my way. I am on very important business, and seek an outlaw called Robin Hood. Are you one of his men?”

“Indeed, no,” said Robin, “what do you want with him?”

“Well,” answered Sir Guy, “I would rather meet him than have forty pounds in gold, for I mean to capture him this very day.”

“Come with me, then,” said Robin, “and I will show you where he dwells, but first let us try our skill at archery.”

So saying, he cut two thin willow wands and placed them in the ground some yards apart for a target.

Robin took aim rather carelessly it seemed, but his arrow almost hit the wand. The stranger, however, even though he aimed with great care, was unable to shoot so well.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Then Robin made a small garland of flowers and put it on top of the wand, saying, "Make this your target."

Sir Guy's arrow went within the garland.



ROBIN DRESSED HIMSELF IN THE HORSE'S SKIN

"Well shot!" cried Robin, "but see, I can even split the thin wand in two with my arrow," and to the surprise of Sir Guy, Robin did so.

"Wonderful," he said. "Even Robin Hood could not shoot better than that. What is your name?"

"First tell me your own, and why you wear this strange disguise?"

SIR GUY OF GISBORNE

"I am Sir Guy of Gisborne, and I wear this skin so that I may deceive Robin Hood."

"That you will not do," replied Robin, "for I myself am Robin the outlaw."

"Then you shall die," cried Sir Guy hastily, "and on the silver bugle I will send tidings to the Sheriff of your death. He waits near by in the forest."

But Robin sprang quickly back, and in the fight that followed Sir Guy was killed. With all speed Robin dressed himself in the horse's skin, and throwing over Sir Guy his own cloak of green, he blew a blast on the silver bugle and walked on towards the place where the Sheriff and his men waited.

They, thinking it was Sir Guy, cried, "And have you killed Robin?"

"He who wears Robin's cloak lies dead in the forest," said Robin.

"A great day," cried the Sheriff. "Robin Hood dead in the forest and Little John a prisoner yonder."

"Little John!" said Robin, hiding his surprise. "Have you captured him? Then I will ask a boon, Sir Sheriff. As I have slain the master, let me now kill his man, Little John."

"Right gladly," was the reply.

Robin stepped up to Little John, and swiftly

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

cutting the cords that bound him, thrust into his hand the bow and arrow he had taken from Sir Guy.

Quickly blowing three notes on his horn, Robin drew out his own bow and sent arrows whizzing into the midst of the Sheriff's men.

Surprised at the turn events had taken, and seeing the outlaws coming through the forest, the Sheriff and his men fled towards Nottingham, while the outlaws shot arrows after them as they ran.

Back to the forest glade went Robin and his merry men, and with a grand feast they rejoiced over the escape of Robin and Little John.

THE SORROWFUL KNIGHT

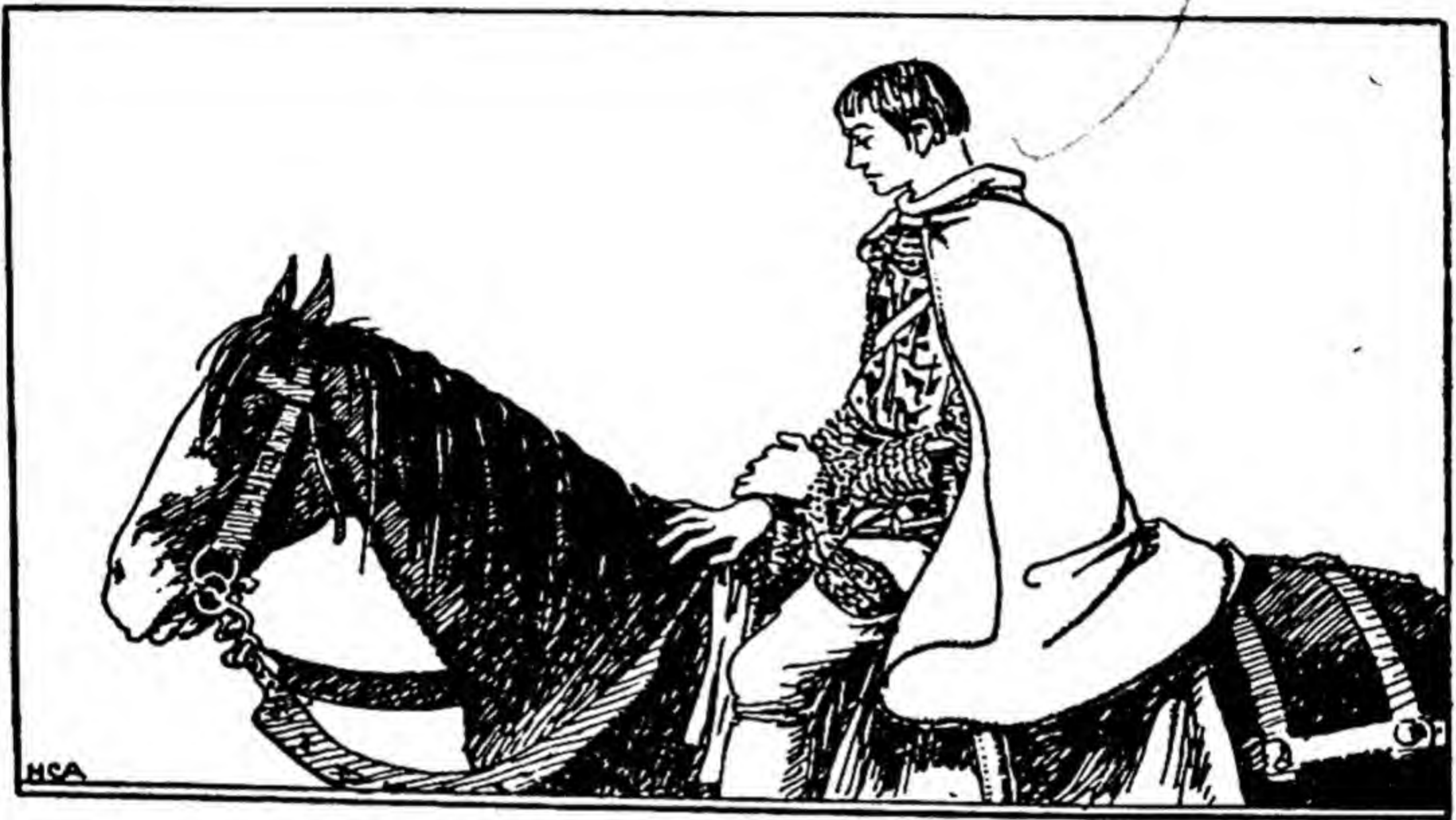
ONE sunny day Robin Hood said, "I have no mind to eat dinner to-day without some guest for company. Go seek till you meet with some monk or knight who maybe will pay well for our feast."

Before long Little John saw a horseman coming, who, though dressed as a knight, looked shabby and rode with downcast eyes, one foot in the stirrup, while the other hung carelessly down.

THE SORROWFUL KNIGHT

A sorrier man than he was one
Ne'er rode on a summer's day.

He was too sorrowful even to guide his wretched horse, but let it amble on as it wished.



THE SORROWFUL KNIGHT

“Good day to you, Sir Knight,” said Little John. “My master bids you dine with him in the forest.”

“Nay,” said the Knight, “I am too troubled to be good company at any feast.”

“But my master awaits you,” said Little John.

“And who is your master?” asked the Knight.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"Robin Hood," said Little John, "maybe he can help you."

"That cannot be," said the Knight. "However, I will go with you, for I have heard much of your life in Sherwood."

So Little John led the way to Robin Hood, and all feasted together, though the Knight was very silent at first.

At the end he thanked Robin Hood, and made as if to go on his way, but Robin said, "Stay, Sir Knight, surely you will pay for the feast."

"Of a truth," said the stranger, "I have but ten marks in all the world."

Robin could scarcely believe this was true, but ten marks was indeed all that the Knight possessed.

"How came you in this sorry state?" asked Robin.

"Listen," replied the Knight. "My name is Richard of the Lea, and my castle is near St Mary's Abbey, not far from York. My only son was to have married a lady, but she was taken from him by a Norman knight. In anger, my son killed this knight, and the law said he too must die unless a great ransom was paid.

"I sold most of my lands, and still had not enough to pay the ransom, so I was forced to borrow four hundred pounds from the Abbot of

THE SORROWFUL KNIGHT

St Mary's. The time has come for me to repay this, and I have but ten silver marks. Tomorrow the Abbot can seize the rest of my land



IN ANGER MY SON KILLED THIS KNIGHT

and my castle, for there is no other way of paying the debt."

"The Abbot shall have none of your lands," cried Robin. "Let me be your friend. I will lend you the four hundred pounds for one year. More, too, will I do; you shall have new suits for yourself and a splendid horse with gay trappings, on which to ride forth to St Mary's Abbey."

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"Heaven bless you, good Robin," said the Knight, almost too overcome to speak, "and I will return to this very place in a year's time to repay the money."

Presently, arrayed in gay clothes, he set off, and when he reached the Abbey he found the Abbot making merry, thinking he would surely have the Knight's castle and lands for himself.

Striding into the hall, Sir Richard flung down the money, and cried out, "My debt is paid." Then, turning about, he walked proudly out, mounted his horse, and galloped off to his own castle.

A year passed by, and Robin wondered if Sir Richard would keep his promise and repay the money. The outlaw waited and waited, and had almost given up hope, when he heard the tramp of horses' hoofs, and Sir Richard appeared, followed by one hundred attendants. He brought not only the four hundred pounds he had borrowed, but a hundred wonderful bows and a hundred sheaves of arrows for the outlaws, with spurs for Little John, and a glittering helmet for Friar Tuck, while to Robin he gave a jewelled sword.

A happy meeting it was, and Robin and Sir Richard became firm friends. Robin bade him

MAID MARIAN

keep the money, and gave him also another four hundred pounds taken that very day from the monks of St Mary, because, though very rich, they had pretended to be poor. It was always Robin's way to help the weak and to reward the true, but to plunder those who were cruel or false.

MAID MARIAN

IN a castle not far from Robin's old home there lived a beautiful maiden called Marian. Her father was the Earl of Fitzwalter, and many grand lords and knights came to win her love. But from all she turned away, for she had a lover in the greenwood, none other than Robin Hood.

Robin, however, was an outlaw; he had no lands or riches, and he could not ask Maid Marian to marry him and share his dangerous life in the forest, though he loved her very dearly.

Perplexed and troubled, she determined somehow to seek Robin. So she disguised herself as a knight, and

With quiver and bow, sword, buckler and all,
Thus armed was Marian most bold,
She wandered about to find Robin out,
Whose person was better than gold.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Now it chanced that very day that Robin, too, had disguised himself as a Norman knight, and was strolling through the greenwood in search of adventure. Seeing the young knight,



HE BATHED HER WOUND

yet not dreaming it was Maid Marian, he tried to stop her passing, but she drew her sword and they soon fell to blows.

After a while both were wounded and Marian grew weary. Feeling sorry for so young a knight, Robin cried out, "Oh, hold thy hand, hold thy hand."

At the sound of his voice she knew who he was. "Robin, Robin!" she cried, so great was her joy. He, too, was happy beyond words to find her, though sad at having wounded her.

MAID MARIAN

He bathed her wound, and they promised to stay together always.

And then as bold Robin Hood and his sweet bride
Went hand in hand to the green bower,
The birds sang with pleasure in merry Sherwood
And 'twas a joyful hour.

When Little John saw them, he, too, wanted to show his pleasure.

So Little John took his bow in his hand,
And wandered into the wood,
To kill the deer and make good cheer
For Marian and Robin Hood.

A stately banquet they had full soon,
All in a shaded bower,
Where venison sweet they had to eat
And were merry that present hour.

All the outlaws joined in the feast and drank the health of Maid Marian.

Then a garland they brought her by two and by three,
And placed it all on the Bride's head,
Then music struck up, and they all fell to dance,
And the Bride and the Bridegroom they led.

In solid content together they lived,
With all their yeomen gay,
They lived by their hands without any lands,
And so they did many a day.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

THE SHERIFF'S SHOOTING MATCH

NOW the Sheriff of Nottingham proclaimed a shooting match, at which anyone could test his skill. He hoped in this way to capture Robin Hood.

The prize was to be an arrow with shaft of silver and head and feathers of gold.

When Robin heard of the match he bade his men make ready. "Seven score of you shall be near at hand, lest the Sheriff plan mischief against us, but only five of us shall enter for the contest."

Our mantles all of Lincoln green
Behind us we will leave,
One shall wear white, another red,
One yellow, another blue,
Thus in disguise to the exercise
Will go whate'er ensue.

In good time they reached the clearing where the contest was to be held, and mingled with the merry crowds there. Then the shooting began.

And when they all had shot about
These archers fair and good,
Evermore still by far the best
Among them was Robin Hood.

THE SHERIFF'S SHOOTING MATCH

No sooner, however, had the gold-headed arrow been given to him than the Sheriff knew him to be Robin, and tried to capture the outlaw.

"Treachery! treachery!" cried Robin, and bade his outlaws shoot fast and far, and though the Sheriff had many more men, they were driven back by the arrows of the outlaws.

In the fight, however, Little John was wounded. He begged Robin Hood not to leave him to fall into the hands of the Sheriff, but to kill him with his own sword.

"Not for all the gold in the land would I do such a thing," cried Robin.



LITTLE JOHN WAS WOUNDED

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

"No," said Much the Miller's son, "that shall never be," and taking Little John on his back, he carried him nearly a mile till they reached a strong castle in the woods.



HE CARRIED HIM NEARLY A MILE

And there that gentle knight did dwell
Sir Richard of the Lea,
Whom Robin had befriended so,
Under the greenwood tree.

"Welcome, good Robin," said the Knight. "You shall be safe with me till Little John is healed of his wound," and he gave orders for the castle gates to be shut, and guarded well.

Before long the Sheriff came to the castle and demanded that the knight should give up Robin and his men. This being refused, he set

THE KING IN THE GREENWOOD

out towards London to tell the King of Robin and the Knight.

Said the King, "I will to Nottingham,
Within this fortnight go,
And there will I take Robin Hood,
And that false knight also."

The Sheriff was ordered to gather together the best archers in the country, and be ready when the King arrived.

By this time, however, the outlaws had left the knight's castle and were again in the greenwood, and though the Sheriff was once able to capture the Knight, he was quickly rescued again by the outlaws.

THE KING IN THE GREENWOOD

NOW the King stayed near Nottingham for full half a year, yet he could not take the bold outlaws. At last, one of the foresters said, "If you would really meet this Robin, dress yourself and five of your knights as monks and ride in the forest as if laden with treasure. Robin will quickly appear to capture your riches, for he has no love for rich monks or abbots."

Pleased with this plan, Richard dressed himself as an abbot, and rode forth with his five

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

monks. Before long, bold Robin appeared, and taking hold of the King's horse, said, "Sir Abbot, you must stay here awhile and give us of your gold, for while you have rich churches



RICHARD DRESSED HIMSELF AS AN ABBOT

and lands, we have to live by killing the King's deer."

Now the King liked the brave, free ways of Robin, and said:

"I have but forty pounds with me, but since you are in such need, I would give you more if I had it." So saying, he gave up the forty pounds. Robin, however, very surprised at meeting so generous an abbot, would only take half the money.

"And now," said the Abbot, "I bring a

THE KING IN THE GREENWOOD

message from the King, who wishes to meet you. See, here is his seal to show his good faith."

Then said Robin:

"I love no man in all the world,
So well as I do my King,

and I ask you as his messenger to dine with me in the greenwood."

He led the Abbot and his men to the glade where dinner was prepared. And a very grand feast it was, with venison and fowls and fish and wine. Robin bade all drink the health of the King, not dreaming who the Abbot really was.

Afterwards the outlaws showed the Abbot how skilful they were at archery and games, and the King even joined in the merriment and gave Robin a good-natured buffet.

"You are a better fighter than you are a monk," said Robin.

Then the King flung off his monk's cloak and said, "The King has need of such brave fellows as you. I am your King——"

When Robin and the outlaws heard this, they knelt before him. The King said, "Rise, good gentlemen. I pray you come to my court and be my chosen archers, for I like you well. I like your suits of green also; pray sell us some, and we will all ride back to Nottingham together."

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

So the King and his knights, dressed in Lincoln green, rode back with Robin and his outlaws. When the people saw all this company



"I AM YOUR KING!"

they were astonished and frightened, too, thinking Robin had killed the King. In the excitement,

The plowman left the plow in the fields,
The smith ran from his shop.
Old folks also that scarce could go,
Over their sticks did hop.

THE DEATH OF ROBIN

Then they saw that the King himself was there, and, most wonderful of all, that he was Robin's friend.

The King soon let them understand,
He had been in the Green Wood,
And from that day for evermore,
Had forgiven Robin Hood.

So all were merry except the Sheriff, who had to pay for a grand supper, and could not bring himself to forgive Robin. Right well they feasted, and the next day Robin and his men went back with King Richard to the court.

THE DEATH OF ROBIN

AFTER some time, however, King Richard was killed in war, and his brother John, when he became King, treated Robin as an enemy. Robin had never been really happy at court, for he could not forget the glad days in Sherwood, and he longed for the free open life of the greenwood. So, before long, he was back again in the forest.

He blew his horn as of old, and was overjoyed to see some of his merry men running forward to welcome him, and together they returned to the old life there.

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

But King John sent such numbers of his men to fight them that gradually the outlaw's band became smaller and smaller, till at last only Little John and Robin were left.

They wandered northward till they reached Kirklees Abbey, where lived Robin's cousin, the



**SHE BOUND UP HIS WOUND SO CARELESSLY THAT
THE BLEEDING WOULD NOT CEASE**

Prioress. Robin, weak from a wound he had received, could go no farther; and they knocked at the Abbey door, thinking that his cousin would be glad to help him.

The Prioress received him with pleasant words, and bade Little John carry Robin to a room apart. Promising to cure him of his fever by opening a vein in his arm, she told

THE DEATH OF ROBIN

Little John to wait outside in the forest for a while.

But her fair words were not true, for at heart she meant evil toward Robin, and after opening the vein in his arm, she bound up the wound carelessly so that the bleeding would not cease. Then she left him.

He slept for a while, and when he awoke felt strangely weaker, too weak even to rise. No one came to him, and as the hours passed on, he feared he was betrayed. Thinking, however, of his horn, he managed to blow three weak blasts upon it.

Little John, who while sitting beneath one of the trees near by had grown very uneasy, suddenly heard the three feeble notes of the horn, and jumping up cried, "I fear my master is nearly dead. He blows so wearily."

Rushing to the Abbey he burst open the door, and ran to the room where Robin lay. Seeing his master so weak, he was full of anger against the Prioress, and cried, "A boon, a boon, dear master I beg! Give me leave to burn down this house and all therein."

"Now nay, now nay," said Robin Hood,
"That boon I'll not grant thee.
I never hurt woman in all my life,
Nor man in her company."

THE CHILDREN'S ROBIN HOOD

Then, knowing he had but a short time to live, Robin said feebly:

“Help me to the window yonder,
Give me my best bow in my hand,
And a broad arrow I'll let flee;
And where this arrow is taken up,
There shall my grave digged be.”

Little John, sad beyond words, held Robin while he shot the arrow. It winged its way till it struck the ground beneath a spreading oak tree. Then Robin sank back and whispered:

“Lay me a green sod under my head,
And another at my feet,
And lay my bent bow by my side,
Which was my music sweet.
That they may say when I am dead,
Here lies bold Robin Hood.”

So died Robin Hood, and there in the shelter of the forest was he buried, a fitting resting-place for one so lawless, frank, and free.

